



Although this fact sheet provides an overview of what was learned at the Town Hall, we encourage you to watch the [full video](#).

## Student Experience Survey

**202 students shared sentiments and thoughts on the state of Macaulay with their main concerns being:** 1) lack of transparency leading to distrust 2) lack of engagement between students at other campuses 3) advising and 4) diversity and mental health. **The full report can be found [here](#).**

## The Opportunities Fund

1. **The Opportunities Gala:** The Opportunities Gala took place on April 16, 2018 at Bohemian National Hall. Scholars Council representatives and Macaulay Ambassadors attended; and members of clubs such as the Musicians Collective, Macaulay Deewane, and the Macaulay Triplets performed for the guests. The Gala as a whole netted **OVER \$300,000 that will go directly to the Opportunities Fund**. The Gala will hopefully become a tradition, and build a foundation of philanthropy for Macaulay.
2. **The New Opportunities Fund Structure**
  - a. For next year, the Opportunities Fund will provide **basic grants of \$1,500** for rising juniors and seniors, which will be accessible through a simple application. There will also be a **limited number of premium grants** (approximately 150) with additional selection criteria that will provide awards ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Students may only receive one grant from the Opportunities Funds; if a premium grant is awarded, the student will not also be eligible to receive a basic award. Applications for both the basic and premium grant will be submitted via the same online application, but the premium grants will require different essays or additional information.
    - i. Additionally, rising juniors and seniors are first priority for the Opportunities Fund next year, and the **traditional “priority list”** that ranked what students could be funded for **will not apply to them**.
    - ii. Afterward, Macaulay will transition back to the previous policy in terms of what class years will be able to start applying for the Opportunities Fund. The Class of 2021 can begin applying to the Fund in the Fall 2019 semester. It is anticipated that for the incoming Class of 2022, those students will be able to apply to the Fund by the end of their sophomore year.
  - b. The Opportunities Fund grant will be a **one-time grant**, meaning students, during their four years at Macaulay, can receive either the base \$1500 or one of the “premium” grants — **either one or the other but not both**.
  - c. Macaulay administration **hopes to increase this base value as the College builds its capacity to raise private funding**. The \$1,500 basic grant will ensure funding for all students in the Class of 2019 and 2020 and will keep the Opportunities Fund stable. In fact, for the second year in a row, Macaulay **will end the fiscal year on budget, without debt, and even with a small surplus**.
  - d. The Opportunities Fund, from its inception, has been for experiential learning. Grants from the Opportunities Fund will support study abroad (or away), internships, and research. The College is exploring other ways to help students with graduate school test prep and applications; these types of expenses will not be eligible for Opportunities Fund support.
3. **Miscellaneous Opportunities Fund Information**



- a. On juniors/seniors applying for reimbursements for study abroad from summer 2018 and fall 2018: Macaulay will be coming to a decision on this soon and will send out a communication indicating whether or not reimbursements will be granted.
- b. The Revson Scholarship will not continue past this year.
- c. Students have often asked why Macaulay does not reduce the number of acceptances it sends out. Admissions decisions are made entirely by the individual campuses, and cohort size is determined jointly by Macaulay and consortial campuses. Most campuses do not want to reduce the number of students they take.

## The Student Experience

1. Macaulay has received special funding from CUNY Central for [Dr. Ted Widmer](#) to **spearhead a Humanities Lab**, an honors study opportunity similar to and inclusive of the approach of the Hertog Scholars Program. Lecture topics and possible future courses will center around topics such as ecosystems of democracy, ethics of information, and environmental citizenship.
  - a. The Hertog Scholars Program is on hiatus until more funding can be acquired. In the interim, Professor Staloff will be hosting a series of lectures next semester, and conferring with Deans Pearl and Ugoretz and Professors Widmer and Reiss on restoring a Hertog-like set of intensive courses of study.
2. The administration recognizes that it's often difficult for students to get to the central Macaulay building, which thus inhibits students from fostering cross-campus relationships. Some suggestions to remedy this problem include hosting events on the different home campuses, Sunday meetups, and greater use of the Cultural Passport. The administration is also looking into accommodating students with long commutes to Macaulay Central. Just recently, **the rideshare company Lyft has pledged \$10,000 in credits to be allocated exclusively to Macaulay students next year**. Macaulay administration will be meeting with the company soon to discuss how these credits can be implemented, and will be conferring with Scholars Council Members, Macaulay Directors and Advisors on how they might best be distributed.
3. Support for students: As a complement to the Wellness Initiative, Macaulay maintains an emergency fund for students in difficult situations. Students should also refer to the resources and support offices on their home campuses, many of which already have emergency funds.

## Macaulay Moving Forward

4. **On Diversity:** Macaulay is launching a pilot transfer program from two CUNY community colleges (Borough of Manhattan Community College and Bronx Community College) to Macaulay. 20 students have been provisionally accepted to Macaulay at Lehman.
  - a. There is a diversity initiative, with participation of the co-chair of the student-led Macaulay Diversity Initiative, which is an ad hoc group that also includes members of the Enrollment Management team. This initiative will ensure that Macaulay is reaching out to and building relationships with high schools that often fall under the radar, in order to get a more diverse body of students to apply.
  - b. Macaulay has also advocated for changes on how specific parts of the application are weighed, but that decision is ultimately up to the admissions offices of each campus. Macaulay is striving to reach the same levels of diversity as the rest of CUNY.
5. Macaulay's GPA requirement is being examined by an ad hoc committee assembled by the College Council. This committee will return to the College Council with their findings and recommendations on whether there should be changes to the GPA requirement. If the College



Council approves any changes, the changes then have to be approved by the faculty governance on each of the 8 campuses, and then by the Board of Trustees.

- a. The next College Council meeting is on September 25, 2018 from 3-5pm. **All College Council meetings are open to the public, so any and all Macaulay students are welcome to attend.**

## Communication

1. Advisement: **Macaulay has created a new position of Advisor Liaison**, filled by Benjamin Ross, to ensure accuracy in advisement and better support to Macaulay's professional advisement team in identifying student needs.
  - a. Advisors meet monthly at Macaulay Central to make sure they are up-to-date with the state of affairs at the College.
2. Challenges in Communication: News about the Opportunities Fund policy changes became muddled as information spread through word of mouth, resulting in inconsistencies.
  - a. Establishing transparency from the beginning, the administration provided incoming freshmen with [information](#) about the Opportunities Fund.
  - b. **Macaulay Monday should be seen as the main, accurate source of information for Macaulay students, so students should consult this source. Students should also feel free to contact the Scholars Council, as we are accessible through Facebook, our website, and in-person.**
  - c. Some Baruch students erroneously received bursar checks, and many students on several campuses were also led to believe that they would get refunds from scholarships such as the NYC Merit Scholarship. The first issue is due in part to a CUNY system error that Macaulay is looking into. The second stems from a change in CUNY policy: the CUNY Central office absorbs these scholarships in tuition costs before applying the Macaulay tuition waiver. Macaulay has unsuccessfully lobbied to change this policy, but will continue its efforts.
3. Alumni and networking: Efforts are being made to increase communication between students and alumni. Currently, there is the [Student-Alumni Career Mentoring Program](#), which gives students the opportunity to receive career advice and support from Macaulay alumni. More information on specific alumni can be found on [CareerPath](#).
4. **Macaulay is seeking feedback for its Strategic Plan**, which will be the framework for the goals of the college for the future. Give your thoughts [here](#).

## Stay in touch with the Macaulay Scholars Council!

Website: [www.macaulay.cuny.edu/msc](http://www.macaulay.cuny.edu/msc)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mhcscholarscouncil/>

Newsletter: <http://tinyurl.com/mscmonthly>

Youtube: <http://tinyurl.com/mscyoutube>

Email: [scholarscouncil@macaulay.cuny.edu](mailto:scholarscouncil@macaulay.cuny.edu)

Instagram: [@macaulayscholarscouncil](https://www.instagram.com/macaulayscholarscouncil)